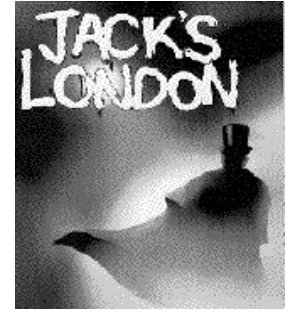


8. WAS JACK THE RIPPER A 'SOCIAL REFORMER'?



Here is a list of the sorts of things that characterised the East End in 1888.

- 55% of children in the East End died before the age of 5
- employment (i.e. dependent on time of year)
- – many women sold their own bodies to survive
- – overcrowded, vermin infested housing with no hygiene
- poor – rubbish and sewage made the area stink
- – many people were addicted to drink such as gin (known as “mother’s ruin”)



These women are the five victims of ‘Jack the Ripper’. Their deaths were very tragic but some good did come from this terrible series of murders.

There had been some early signs that something was wrong in the East End:

- In 1886 a rally of unemployed dockers and labourers in Trafalgar Square turned into a riot.
- On Sunday 13 November 1887 a protest of poor people in Trafalgar Square turned into a battle with the police.

The murders highlighted the problems of the East End. At the heart of the biggest empire the world had ever seen, close to one people lived in terrible conditions.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WHITECHAPEL MURDERS WERE VERY IMPORTANT:

Although the government was in the process of clearing slum housing, the publicity brought about by the murders speeded up the clearance. Lots of were set up in the area to help the people of the West End. People who believed in the rights of the working class (.....) found new supporters., which represented the rights of working people, were set up.

TASK.

1. Fill the gaps in the account above using the following words as appropriate:

prostitution	alcoholism	slums	charities	Trade Unions
sanitation	seasonal	socialists	Whitechapel	million

2. In the account there is a deliberate mistake – what is it?

3. Use the information on this sheet to produce a spider diagram entitled “How conditions improved in the East End after 1888”.

4. Do you think that these changes would have occurred in the East End were it not for the Whitechapel murders? Explain your answer.